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ous,—in the sense, at least, that they do not conflict; and that we should, therefore, accept, as at least consonant with reason, beliefs which reason can neither discover nor certify. The assumptions that underlie this statement of the problem are, however, nowhere examined, and there are suggestions of one or two ideas which would, if properly worked out, carry us beyond them.

The scientific illustrations are stated with admirable lucidity; the treatment of the subject is more systematic than in the previous course of lectures; and, while we cannot regard the volume as a great contribution to the science of Natural Theology, it is a sensible, and in parts suggestive, discussion of problems more or less connected with it by one whose reputation as a scientist is of the highest.

ROBERT A. DUFF.

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION. Chicago, 1893. George H. Ellis, Boston, Massachusetts.

This report contains, besides the usual matter of such documents, several articles of considerable interest. The lengthy paper by Mr. Kellogg, secretary of the New York Charity Organization Society, is especially interesting, not only for its history of that movement in this country and England, but mainly for the statistics of poverty which throw considerable light upon the causes of it. Forty-four cities of the Union report nearly 75,000 cases as having come under the care of these societies. The total number of persons will probably be 300,000, counting four to a family on the average. The societies, however, do not all report in the same way, and hence a complete tabular view of results cannot be given, after the model of the system adopted by an earlier conference. Hence, in regard to "social condition," only 15,000 cases are reported here. But the figures in these are very instructive. Nearly 35 per cent. are married couples, 19 per cent. are widows,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. are deserted wives, 6 per cent. are single women, and nearly 26 per cent. are single men. This was for the year 1892. The percentage of single men compared with single women is rather large when we come to consider the common belief that woman is much more handicapped in the struggle for existence than man. Either this is not true, or moral causes operate very largely to increase the number of men. Of 35,000 cases considered, 36 per cent. represented children under 14 years of age, and 9 per cent. those be-

tween 14 and 20, while there were 9 per cent. between 20 and 40, 32 per cent. between 40 and 55, and only 19 per cent. between 55 and 70, the period of declining strength. The last ought to be much higher in comparison, unless its reduction can be accounted for by the drifting off of the incompetents into almshouses.

Of the 75,000 cases treated, it is interesting to remark that only 16 per cent. needed work rather than relief, showing that economic causes had the smallest share in the production of the general poverty. Still, if we add the 18 per cent. who were given employment, this number may appear much larger. It is noticeable that 10 per cent were absolutely refused relief as unworthy on account of vicious habits. The benefits of the movement for restrictions upon out-door relief are very well illustrated in a table showing the saving by charity organizations to four cities annually,—Brooklyn, Buffalo, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia. This is put at \$350,500 a year, and shows a large sum saved to the taxpayer, where before the State or city had spent this amount for relief. No doubt still more is saved by the educational influence of such societies upon the community in regard to legitimate and useful charity.

On other matters the report contains much instructive material, though some of the papers are not very exhaustive. It is interesting to note what proportion of imbeciles, in some grades 20 to 30 per cent., can be trained to self-support. This fact throws much light upon the possibility of successfully treating incompetency among the ordinary poor. Nothing of striking importance is reported regarding the insane. The reports from the various States are mostly statistical, but confined largely to the mere numbers of persons cared for. There is room for more careful study of insanity, imbecility, and poverty than is evidenced by most of the State returns. Each institution ought to be required to report on the causes of the phenomena with which it has to deal, and to classify its inmates very carefully. We need in this country better statistical methods than are generally applied. Reports of this kind, valuable as they are now, would be greatly improved by them.

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